

Senior Staff Update on PFAS

- PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have remarkable properties. They have been widely used around the globe since the 1940s because of their stain-resistant, waterproof, nonstick, and fire-fighting properties. They help save lives, and they are used in products that we rely on every day.
- But some of these compounds are highly persistent in the environment, bioaccumulate in humans and animals, and have been shown to be toxic in animal studies.
- There are increasing concerns about the potential health risks from a number of these compounds in the environment.
- To address these concerns, EPA has set up a cross-Agency Task Force that is coordinating activities across the programs, Regions and ORD to lead the nation's efforts to address PFAS.
- Our efforts are focused on providing tools to assist states, tribes and local communities to better address the challenge of PFAS in the environment.
- EPA has important activities underway:
 - To provide toxicity information this summer for GenX (of concern in the Cape Fear watershed in NC) and PFBS (a component in Aqueous Film-Forming Foams to fight fires), as well as additional PFAS compounds in the year ahead.
 - To provide analytical methods for additional PFAS compounds in drinking water and as well as analytical methods for PFAS compounds in surface water, sediment and soils.
 - To provide the latest treatability information for PFAS compounds.
 - To develop groundwater cleanup goals for PFAS compounds at contaminated sites.
- On May 22 (tomorrow) the Administrator will convene a national leadership summit to bring together stakeholders from across the country to build on the steps the agency has already taken to address PFAS, including an important focus on strengthening risk communication related to PFAS in the environment.
 - At the summit, the Administrator will announce that EPA is taking the first step toward development of drinking water standards and cleanup levels.
- Following the summit, EPA plans to travel to a number of states to hear directly from the public on how to best help states and communities facing this issue. We have already selected NH and Michigan as locations for this community engagement effort and we will work with the Regions to identify an additional 3-4 locations for the Agency to visit.
- Using information from the National Leadership Summit and community engagements, EPA plans to develop a National PFAS Management Plan for release later this year.